

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John C. Han (Reg 41,403) on 11/03/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 19

A non-transitory computer readable medium storing a computer program, the computer program for managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network, the computer program comprising:

instructions for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

instructions for defining accounting information associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier;

instructions for storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint service within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity;

instructions for performing an access enabling procedure, and instructions for providing said accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network in which charging data for the point-to-multipoint service is provided considering a total number of subscribers who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested, wherein said charging data is used for billing the provider of the point-to-multipoint service depending on the number of the subscribers receiving the service.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-21 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-21 are allowed in view of Applicant's amendments, submissions, and remarks filed 04/29/2010.

Specifically, with regards to claim 1, and similarly claims 19 and 20, the prior art of record does not expressly or in combination disclose:

a method of managing point-to-multipoint services in
a mobile communication network, said method comprising:

receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

defining accounting information associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier;

storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint service within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity;

performing an access enabling procedure, and providing said accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network in which charging data for the point-to-multipoint service is provided considering a total number of subscribers who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested, wherein said charging data is used for billing the provider of the point-to-multipoint service depending on the number of the subscribers receiving the service.

Claims 2-18 are allowed as being dependent on allowable subject matter.

Although HERZOG determines multicast charging based on a number of subscribers, HERZOG discloses cost sharing based on link costs and not determining

accounting information identifying a subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested, wherein said charging data is used for billing the provider of the point-to-multipoint service depending on the number of the subscribers receiving the service.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARIEL BALAOING whose telephone number is (571)272-7317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (571) 272-7023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ariel Balaoing/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/A. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 2617